

Welcome to the Giles County Quilt Documentation Website.

We hope you will find the following information helpful in holding your own quilt documentation day. You may need to change things to suit your needs (we are) but here are the basics. Paula Golden has been very helpful (For information, check her website).

Probably the first things to consider are: where, when, what, why, and how.

Where: Quilt documentations take space. You are going to need an Intake area and a Check out area. You will need a space that will hold two tables to measure quilts, plus some kind of quilt display to photograph the quilts. You'll need a paperwork area and a separate area to record the story behind the quilt and quilters history and a scanner to record any paperwork or pictures brought in by the quilt maker/owner.

When: What date will be convenient for the quilters in your area and work with the activities of the Historical Society? How often will you hold quilt documentation days. (We hope to have 2 a year for as long as there is interest.)

What: This is a statement of what you want to tell your community about the project. And what kind of quilt you are interested in. For example, full size, twin, lap, unfinished, quilted garments etc. (We decided that it was an opportunity for Giles County residents to join in an ongoing quilt documentation project to preserve the legacy of quilts and quilt makers for future generations.)

Why: This is a statement saying why the Historical Society is collecting the information, where it will be stored, and who can access it. (The information will be collected to record the history of quilts and quilt makers in Giles County from 1806 to 1999. The information will be placed in a database to be shared with other documentation projects or publications. We do not need to work under the auspice of Virginia Consortium of Quilters or the Virginia Quilt Museum but it would be gracious on our part to give them a copy of our work. We all need to keep our copyright.)

Who: We needed to decide what designated a Giles County quilt and quiltmaker.

How: Participants will call make an appointment on _____(date). Time slots will be available from 9:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M. One quilt per ½ hour appointment. At the time of registration, a \$5 fee will be collected to help defray the postage costs.

Forms will be available from the website and at the Giles County Historical Society for those quilt owners who would like to complete them ahead of time.

After registration, a postcard will be sent to quilters/owners. This will include the date and time of their registration, general information, and some helpful tips the owner might like to research to help him/her complete the forms.

For instance:

1. Dates important to the quilt maker. Births and deaths of quilt maker, date the quilt begun, finished.
2. Group quilt maker belonged to.
3. Stories can be recorded or written before hand to turn in at the Quilt Documentation.
4. Pictures will be taken of quilt owner. If this is a family quilt, we'd like pictures of the maker and other pertinent photos to scan before the photos are returned to you on the same day.
5. Address labels might be helpful.
6. Parking information.

Mission Statement: This contains the information you have already decided in answering the what and why questions above.

Four areas of information to be collected. These forms are on the website. They were compiled from other websites on the Internet. Please feel free to change the Giles County headings to your county. Our mentor, Paula Golden, suggested we get as much information as we could during the documentation.

1. **Physical information:** For the photograph, the quilt should be hung by either a muslin strip pinned with silk pins or by ribbon loops from a quilt display. (Loops are faster) A digital camera and good lighting is advisable. You might have fragile quilts which need to be placed on the floor. For the oral history, use an audio recording device. They vary in price.
2. **Background/History:** This form requests information about the quilt. There might be some people who would prefer to write the history, hopefully ahead of time. This could be attached here.
3. **Owner/Maker:** This form requests information about the maker/owner, collects genealogy, and could be where the quilter adds stories if she/he doesn't wish to be recorded.
4. **Release form:** This gives permission to use the quilt makers/owners information.

Miscellaneous

1. Every quilt needs to have a label. To this point one of our volunteers has made them with a Pigma pen. The label should include information about what county and where the Quilt Documentation Project was held in and the date. (We changed the wording but the information is “This quilt was part of the Giles county Quilt Documentation Project in 2010, held at the Andrew Johnston Complex in Pearisburg, VA”.)
2. Completed forms will be stored in sheet protectors in three ring, 3 inch binders.
3. It is very helpful to have a training session prior to the event.
4. Recorded histories will need to be transcribed after the event, without any text corrections.
5. Suggestions for Interview questions. Quilt needs to be unfolded on a table nearby. “Tell me the story behind this lovely quilt. Was it for a special occasion? Do you remember what you were thinking about when you were working on it? If it is a family piece, what is the history behind the quilt. Etc.”
6. We plan to have guides to stay with quilt owner/maker to help her/him through the process.

Research books: Encyclopedia of Pieced Quilt Patterns by Barbara Brackman \$25 from Amazon.com, Barbara Brackman’s Encyclopedia of Modern Applique-2000 Traditional and Modern Designs, \$20,

The Quilter's Album of Patchwork Patterns: 4050 Pieced Blocks for Quilters by Jinny Beyer (Hardcover - Oct 15, 2009) \$35, from Amazon.com

Quilts of Virginia by Paula Golden and VCQ \$20, from Amazon.com.

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